

Frankford Arsenal, Buildings 239-239A
Southeast corner of Clay Street and Craig Road
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Location: Southeast corner of Clay Street and Craig Road
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: Building 239 -1909-1910
Building 239A - 1939

Significance: Constructed as a powder magazine, Building 239 is associated with the original and most elemental purpose of Frankford Arsenal, the storage of powder and munitions for the United States Army. Building 239A, constructed in 1939 as a sieving house, served the magazine.

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HISTORY

Building 239 was constructed in 1909-1910 as a powder magazine. In 1914, an earth embankment, removed between 1933 and 1941, was constructed around the building. Building 239A, constructed by the Works Progress Administration in 1939, served as a sieving house. Various alterations to the main building date to the 1940s, when the building was converted into a small arms composition mixing room. After 1955, it served as a medium caliber loading plant.

DESCRIPTION

Building 239 is a single story brick building, lined with gypsum block, on a concrete foundation. The building, which measures approximately 50 feet by 34 feet, has a gabled roof with asbestos shingles. Open porches, with wood posts and corrugated metal roofs, are attached to the south and west facades. A variety of small additions and auxiliary rooms are attached to the main building. The interior of the main building is divided into three rooms by glazed tile walls.

Building 239A is a stuccoed hollow tile building on a concrete foundation, measuring approximately 8 feet by 11 feet. The single-story building has a hipped asbestos shingle roof with a centrally located ventilator. Two-leaf metal fire doors are located in the north and south facades.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal," West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979.

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies are on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

